



## Literacy Works, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: Caryn Sagal at (410) 833-9584

### LITERACY WORKS PROVIDING ADULT EDUCATION AT YMCA 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS IN TWO BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOLS

BALTIMORE (Oct. 25, 2005) – Literacy Works, Inc. – a nonprofit organization that coordinates, promotes and supports adult and family literacy services – now provides the adult learning classes at the YMCA 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers opening in two Baltimore City Schools.

Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary School (1000 N. Monford Ave. – Clifton-Berea), and Robert W. Coleman Elementary School (2400 Windsor Ave. – Mondawmin) now extend school learning through hands-on activities and enrichment clubs and parent/child engagement, coordinated by YMCA of Central Maryland – Urban Services.

“We are excited to expand our reach into additional Baltimore City schools,” said Helene Waranch, executive director of Literacy Works, noting that the organization ran a family literacy program since May 2003 at George Washington Elementary School, in addition to its adult learning centers throughout Baltimore County and City. “Our motto has always been, ‘If you teach the parent, you reach the child.’”

Literacy Works offers GED/ABE classes to 30-50 family members of children attend the two elementary schools. Classes will occur two-and-one-half hours, two-day-per-week.

“For the family literacy component, we wanted to partner with Literacy Works based on their expertise with adult learning,” said Kacy Conley, YMCA of Central Maryland’s Director of Urban Services. “The parents are excited to be learning right where their children are learning.”

In addition to boosting student academic performance and family literacy, the YMCA 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers are designed to help 75 students at each school make positive, healthy choices as they grow to young adults. Other partners in the program include:

- Baltimore Clayworks – art enrichment, staff training, parent/child activities
- Mark Seidel – Tae-kwon-do
- International School of Protocol – pro-social and communications skills
- Johns Hopkins University/Peabody Institute – music enrichment
- Baltimore Symphony Orchestra – Art Excel Program
- National Aquarium in Baltimore – aquatic exhibits and education
- Baltimore Public Works Museum – field trips and educational experiences
- Dr. Ruhul Amin, Morgan University - evaluation
- Junior Achievement – social studies-related courses
- The After School Institute technical assistance, program promotion.

Founded in 1990, Literacy Works, Inc. serves to improve adult and family literacy. With a philosophy of, “Teach the parent, reach the child,” the organization operates a distance learning program, as well as 10 adult learning centers in Baltimore City and County. For more information, call 410-887-2001.

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